

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CAIRO 14966 081821Z

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 USIE-00 NSCE-00
INR-07 IO-13 MED-02 NSAE-00 PA-01 DHA-05 CA-01
OES-07 PRS-01 CIAE-00 HEW-04 FDRE-00 DODE-00 SS-15
SSO-00 INRE-00 SCS-03 /141 W
-----016817 081838Z /40

O R 081700Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9215

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAIRO 14966

FOR O/MED AND AID/OFDA

EO 11652: NA

SUBJ: POSSIBILITY OF CHOLERA IN EGYPT

REF (A) DAMASCUS 5569, (B) STATE 210087, (C) DAMASCUS 5607,
(D) DAMASCUS 5622,

SUMMARY: NO LABORATORY-CONFIRMED CASES OF CHOLERA REPORTED
TO DATE, ALTHOUGH TWO CASES OF QUOTE CLINICALLY DIAGNOSED
CASES END QUOTE ARE REPORTED. EGYPTIAN GOVT TAKING
APPROPRIATE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES. NO REQUESTS FOR US ASSIS-
TANCE HAVE BEEN RECEIVED. IN THE EVENT SUCH REQUEST OCCUR,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 CAIRO 14966 081821Z

EMB HEREIN REQUESTS INFO ON AVAILABILITY, SOURCE, AND RESPONSE
TIME REQUIRED TO OBTAIN IV INFUSION SETS AND LAB REAGENTS.
END SUMMARY

1. EMBASSY, IN COOPERATION WITH NAMRU AND AID, HAS BEEN
WATCHING CLOSELY POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENTS OF CHOLERA IN EGYPT. ON
SEP 1, CAIRO PRESS RELEASE REPORTED TIGHTENED CONTROLS AT

AIRPORTS AND PORTS OF ENTRY AS FUNDAMENTAL ANTI-CHOLERA PRECAUTIONS. ONE HALF MILLION EGYPTIANS WORKING IN HOSPITALS, AIRPORTS AND SEAPORTS WERE TO BE VACCINATED AGAINST CHOLERA, AND 2 1/2 MILLION ANTI-CHOLERA VACCINE DOSES WERE REPORTED THEN AVAILABLE, WITH 2 MILLION VACCINE DOSES BEING PRODUCED EACH WEEK. THE PRINCIPAL THURST WAS TO EMPHASIZE CONTROLS AT PORTS OF ENTRY OF INBOUND TRAVELERS FROM INFECTED COUNTRIES. SUBSEQUENTLY, THERE WERE UNCONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS OF PLANNED MASS INOCULATIONS IF THEY SHOULD PROVE NECESSARY.

2. ON SEP 2, THE EMBASSY ISSUED A LOW-KEY ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICE SUGGESTING THAT AMERICAN PERSONNEL AND THEIR DEPENDENTS REVIEW THEIR IMMUNIZATION CARDS AND CONSIDER UPDATING THEIR INOCULATIONS. THE SAME NOTICE, HOWEVER, LAID PRINCIPAL STRESS ON MAINTAINING STANDARDS OF PERSONAL HYGIENE AND CLOSE MANAGEMENT OF FOOD AND WATER IN THE HOME, AS WELL AS INSISTING ON ACCEPTABLE STANDARDS OF PERSONAL HYGIENE ON THE PART OF DOMESTIC SERVANTS.

3. DR ZOHIR FARID, LONG TIME EMBASSY MED CONSULTANT, ADVISED EMB NURSE ON SEP7 OF TWO "CLINICALLY DIAGNOSED" CASES OF CHOLERA IN CAIRO. HE REPEATED THIS INFO TO CAPT WATTEN, COMMANDING OFFICER NAMRU, THIS MORNING (SEP 8).

4. ALSO THIS MORNING, MIN OF HEALTH SPOKESMAN SAID THERE ARE NO LABATORY CONFIRMED CHOLERA CASES IN EGYPT AND THAT TWO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 CAIRO 14966 081821Z

CASES OF "CLINICALLY DIAGNOSED" CHOLERA ARE REPORTED IN A CAIRO HOSPITAL; BOTH CASES WITHOUT RPT WITHOUT LABATORY CONFIRMATION. (ON BASIS OF SAME REPORT, NAMRU REQUESTED LAB SPECIMENS AND WAS REFERRED TO THE DIR OF THE HOSPITAL FOR THIS PURPOSE. AS OF THIS MESSAGE, THE SAMPLES HAVE NOT BEEN MADE AVAILABLE.)

5. GOE IS FULLY AWARE OF THE CHOLERA SITUATION IN SURROUNDING AREAS AND HAS BEEN REPORTEDLY GENEROUS IN SUPPLYING VACCINES AND IV FLUIDS TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. WHETHER THIS GENEROSITY HAS MADE ITS OWN RESERVES INSUFFICIENT HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED OR ESTABLISHED, BUT THERE IS SOME CAUSE FOR SUSPICION THAT THIS MIGHT BE THE CASE.

6. THE GOE HAS NOT REQUESTED ANY ASSISTANCE FROM THE EMBASSY OR NAMRU, BUT IN VIEW OF THE WIDESPREAD GENERAL AWARENESS OF EGYPTIANS OF CHOLERA IN SURROUNDING COUNTRIES AND THE FORTHCOMING BAIRAM, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ANY SUBSTANTIAL OUTBREAK MIGHT LEAD TO REQUESTS FOR US ASSISTANCE. SUCH ASSISTANCE MOST LIKELY WOULD BE FOR IV INFUSION SETS OR LAB MATERIALS. VACCINE AND IV FLUID REQUESTS ARE LESS LIKELY. IN VIEW OF THIS POTENTIALLY, WOULD APPRECIATE INFO ON AVAILABILITY,

SOURCES, AND RESPONSE TIME REQUIRED IF REQUESTS FOR US ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE GENERATED.

7. EMB AND NAMRU PLAN TO REITERATE OUR OFFER OF LAST WEEK ON INOCULATIONS AND OFFER TO INOCULATE EGYPTIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE MISSION. TO THIS END, WE HAVE REQUESTED ADDITIONAL VACCINE FROM FRANKFURT, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE TOMORROW. WE ARE PARTICULARLY ATTUNED TO THE PROBABLE REQUESTS OF THE UNOFFICIAL AMERICAN COMMUNITY AND THEREFORE ARE HOPEFUL THAT EGYPTIAN HEALTH OFFICIALS WILL ANNOUNCE PROMPTLY THE MASS INOCULATION PROGRAM, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE AVAILABILITY OF VACCINES TO GOVERNMENTAL OR PRIVATE PHYSICIANS FOR THE UNOFFICIAL COMMUNITY. WE ALSO WOULD HOPE TO BE ABLE TO COMPLETE THE MISSION'S INOCULATION PROGRAM BEFORE BAIRAM RATHER THAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 CAIRO 14966 081821Z

AFTER, BECAUSE OF ALL OUR MEDICAL ADVISERS CONSIDER THAT TIMING DISTINCTIVELY MORE PROPITIOUS.

8. COMMENT: EMB OFFICIALS WHO REMEMBER THE SUSPECTED PLAGUE OUTBREAK LAST YEAR ALSO RECALL THAT THE PUBLIC POSTURE OF HEALTH OFFICIALS AT THATTIME SEEMED CALCULATED TO DOWNPLAY THE PROBLEM IN THE INTEREST OF MAINTAINING TOURISM, FREE TRADE ZONES, ETC. SIMILAR HANDLING OF THE CHOLERA SITUATION COULD RPT COULD BE ADDUCED FROM THE FACT THAT HEALTH AUTHORITIES ARE SPEAKING ONLY OF "CLINICALLY DIAGNOSED" CASES. CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN ME AREA IS MUCH MORE WIDELY KNOWN, HOWEVER, AND WE HAVE DIFFERENT MIN OF HEALTH. THIS MORNING HEALTH AUTHORITIES WERE PROFESSIONALLY SAYING THAT THEY HOPED TO COMPLETE A MASS INOCULATION PROGRAM BEFORE BAIRAM, BUT IN THE EARLY AFTERNOON THE TARGET DATE WAS AFTER BAIRAM. (THE BAIRAM IS A THREE-DAY FEAST FOLLOWING RMADAN TO OCCUR DURING THE WEEK OF SEP 11-17, AND IS WIDELY PARTICIPATED IN BY ALL LEVELS OF SOCIETY. LARGE QUANTITIES OF FOOD AND DRINK ARE HANDLED AND EATEN UNDER RATHER UNSANITARY CONDITIONS.)

9. THE MISSION WILL CONTINUE TO WATCH THE SITUATION CLOSELY AND WILL REPORT SUBSEQUENTLY.
EILTS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, CHOLERA, EPIDEMICS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO14966
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770325-0911
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770987/aaaacvrz.tel
Line Count: 160
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2678aa4a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 DAMASCUS 5569, 77 STATE 210087, 77 DAMASCUS 5607, 77 DAMASCUS 5622
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1352481
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBILITY OF CHOLERA IN EGYPT
TAGS: SWEL, TBIO, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2678aa4a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009